

finally have a window into what the true emissions of greenhouse gases are in countries that are rapidly developing such as India and China. The disclosures would also provide a strong disincentive for multinationals to relocate facilities abroad just to avoid disclosure or future regulation.

Madam Speaker, in closing I would like to say that we need to accomplish something this Congress to get us on the path toward mandatory emissions cuts. I truly hope that we enact a strong cap and trade bill, but unfortunately the President has made quite clear that he will veto any efforts to enact such legislation. If the President insists on such an unwise decision I hope that at the very least he would consider backing the Greenhouse Gas Accountability Act. Global warming is simply too important for us to play politics with this issue.

INTRODUCING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATOR LOAN FORGIVENESS ACT OF 2007

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Early Childhood Educator Loan Forgiveness Act of 2007.

We have paid a lot of attention to reauthorizing the No Child Left Behind Act so far this year. One of the disturbing things we often hear in these discussions is how far behind our students are when compared with their peers around the world. Another problem we have talked a lot about is the persistent achievement gap between well-off, White children and everyone else in this country.

Last month Speaker PELOSI hosted a National Summit for America's Children, where we heard from leading child development experts about the importance of providing high-quality early education opportunities to boost success in school and in life.

Science shows definitively that a majority of brain development occurs in the first few years of life, and that influences—positive or negative—in these formative years can last a lifetime. We were reminded at the summit that “getting it right” in the early years is “far more advantageous than trying to fix things later.”

Kindergarten teachers know from their research: Often when 5 year olds enter school, there is already a noticeable achievement gap between those students from more privileged backgrounds and those from disadvantaged households.

Too often, working families cannot afford to send their children to a high quality preschool, so the youngsters end up spending their formative years in the care of family members—often untrained in early childhood development. The resulting hours in front of a television certainly do not stimulate the positive neural activity needed for healthy brain development.

Not only does this experience limit the child's potential for success in school, it also hurts our country. Children without a high quality early education experience are less likely to contribute to the economy, more likely to commit crimes, and more likely to experience poverty and the poor health that goes with it.

Scientists, economists, teachers, and parents tell us that we must invest in our country's future by funding increased access to high-quality early childhood education.

And yet, time and time again, I hear from the early education community in Hawaii that even with more classrooms and more money, they could not make real progress toward serving every family who wants to send their children to preschool because they don't have enough qualified teachers.

We know that a highly qualified teacher makes a huge difference for children. We owe it to them to have a teacher who knows what he or she is doing. Unfortunately, there are strong economic barriers to increasing the number of qualified early education workers. When students are choosing a career, it is unlikely that they will decide to take on the thousands of dollars in educational debt for a job that will pay so little. The average preschool teacher makes less than janitors, secretaries, and many other workers with only a high school diploma. As the saying goes, “it just doesn't add up.”

We can change the equation. We can start by providing loan forgiveness to students who get a degree in early childhood education or a related field and then teach in low income communities, where the real need is, for 5 years. This bill will do just that.

Cost is not the only prohibitive factor for prospective early education teachers. In some places there are simply no training programs available. Our teachers' colleges are not prepared to turn out the number of quality teachers we will need if we are to make a real investment in early education. Further, even with a more robust workforce, States would not have the money they need to implement high-quality early education standards, build the facilities, and run the programs. I am working with Chairman MILLER and others on the Education and Labor Committee to address these problems in other pieces of legislation.

But while we work on all the other issues, we cannot wait to pass this bill. It is a necessary first step because its benefits will not accrue immediately—training new teachers will take time.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that we do not miss a chance to make real progress toward closing the disturbing achievement gaps our children face—both amongst themselves and when compared with their peers around the world.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BLAIR HOLT FIREARM LICENSING AND RECORD OF SALE ACT OF 2007

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2007.

I introduce this bill in tribute to a brave young hero, Blair Holt, who sacrificed his life in an attempt to protect the life of a friend. Blair was fatally shot and killed by a young man possessing a deadly firearm and a reckless disregard for human life.

Madam Speaker, the proliferation of guns in our community impacts us all. My son lost his

life back in 1999 due to senseless gun violence and my nephew sits in jail today, convicted of fatally shooting someone.

I am sick and tired of shooting and the loss of innocent lives over and over again in our neighborhoods.

In Chicago, since the beginning of this school year alone, over 31 children have lost their life by violence, and the great majority were killed with guns.

This bill will assist law enforcement in tracking the flow of guns and require those who possess guns to be trained in gun safety, handling, and storage.

The purpose of this bill is to restrict the availability of firearms to criminals, youth, and gang members, and to protect the public against the unreasonable risk of injury and death associated with the unrecorded sale and transfer of guns.

I know that the powerful gun lobby will attack this bill for restricting the availability of guns, but all of us who live in the inner cities where our children and family members are losing their lives on a weekly or daily basis understand the need to implement a common sense federal law that will inform law enforcement of where the guns are and who is possessing them.

This bill will implement the same type of system that we have in place for licensing drivers and registering cars. No sensible individual can argue with the fact that with over 200 million guns in the United States, we need a uniform system to keep track of these weapons. Mayors and law enforcement officials across the country have been calling for this type of legislation for years and I hope that we will be successful in making Blair's Bill federal law.

Madam Speaker, the future of our children, our families, and our communities is at stake. I encourage my colleagues to join my efforts to increase accountability in our firearm policy and support H.R. 2666—the Blair Holt Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2007.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, 2007 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 13

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Defense, and Department of Labor cooperation on employment issues.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 1257, to provide the District of Columbia a voting seat and the State of Utah an additional seat in the House of Representatives, S. 274, to amend chapter 23 of title 5, United States Code, to clarify the disclosures of information protected from prohibited personnel practices, require a statement in nondisclosure policies, forms, and agreements that such policies, forms, and agreements conform with certain disclosure protections, provide certain authority for the Special Counsel, H.R. 1254, to amend title 44, United States Code, to require information on contributors to Presidential library fundraising organizations, S. Res. 22, reaffirming the constitutional and statutory protections accorded sealed domestic mail, S. 967, to amend chapter 41 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for the establishment and authorization of funding for certain training programs for supervisors of Federal employees, S. 1046, to modify pay provisions relating to certain senior-level positions in the Federal Government, S. 1099, to amend chapter 89 of title 5, United States Code, to make individuals employed by the Roosevelt Campobello International Park Commission eligible to obtain Federal health insurance, S. 597, to extend the special postage stamp for breast cancer research for 2 years, H.R. 1255, and S. 886, bills to amend chapter 22 of title 44, United States Code, popularly known as the Presidential Records Act, to establish procedures for the consideration of claims of constitutionally based privilege against disclosure of Presidential records, and S. 381, to establish a fact-finding Commission to investigate and determine facts and circumstances surrounding the relocation, internment, and deportation to Axis countries of Latin Americans of Japanese descent from December 1941 through February 1948, and the impact of those actions by the United States, and to recommend appropriate remedies.

SD-342

Appropriations

Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Af-

fairs, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

SD-124

Rules and Administration

To hold hearings to examine nominations to the Federal Election Commission.

SR-301

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Anne Woods Patterson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Nancy J. Powell, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to Nepal, Joseph Adam Erel, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, Richard Boyce Norland, of Iowa, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uzbekistan, and Stephen A. Seche, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen.

SD-419

Appropriations

Homeland Security Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

S-128, Capitol

JUNE 14

9:30 a.m.

Armed Services

Business meeting to markup an original bill entitled "Dignified Treatment of Wounded Warriors Act".

SR-325

Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the impact of rising gas prices on America's small businesses.

SR-428A

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine public safety and competition issues, focusing on the 700MHz auction.

SR-253

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 535, to establish an Unsolved Crimes Section in the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, and an Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Investigative Office in the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, S. 456, to increase and enhance law enforcement resources committed to investigation and prosecution of violent gangs, to deter and punish violent gang crime, to protect law-abiding citizens and communities from violent criminals, to revise and enhance criminal penalties for violent crimes, to expand and improve gang prevention programs, S. 1145, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for patent reform, S. Res. 105, designating September 2007 as "Campus Fire Safety Month", S. Res. 215, designating September 25, 2007, as "National First Responder Appreciation Day", the nomination of Leslie Southwick, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Cir-

cuit, and possible authorization of subpoenas in connection with the investigation of the legal basis for the warrantless wiretap program.

SD-226

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine importing success, focusing on work-family policies from aboard make economic sense for the United States.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

JUNE 19

9:30 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and the federal government, focusing on a model public-private partnership accelerating research toward a cure.

SD-106

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine rising crime in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

SD-226

JUNE 20

2:30 p.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending judicial nominations.

SD-226

JUNE 26

10 a.m.

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending executive nomination.

SD-226

JUNE 27

9:30 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to markup pending legislation.

SD-562

POSTPONEMENTS

JUNE 13

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider original bills entitled, "The Higher Education Access Reconciliation Act", and "The Higher Education Amendments of 2007", and other pending calendar business.

SD-628